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Letter dated 4 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to draw your attention to an urgent question, namely the alarming situation resulting from Israeli troop concentrations on the southern border of Lebanon and in the Shab'a farmlands area.

The representative of Israel, in his letter addressed to you in document S/2001/831, dated 29 August 2001, attempted to justify the actions of Israel, in order to cover up its provocations by land, air and sea, which were combined with a field trip by the Prime Minister of Israel over the whole length of Lebanon's southern border, accompanied by his military command staff, in a new show of force involving a grave threat to international peace and security in the region.

I would draw your attention in this connection to the fact that Israel's provocations and vast troop concentrations come at a time when the South has been experiencing complete peace and stability for a number of weeks. It is strange that Israel should return to the language of threat and menace because of visits by peaceable Lebanese journalists and citizens to villages located on the Lebanese side of the international frontier and coming under Lebanese sovereignty and within the border area that was restored to the homeland after 22 years of loathsome occupation.

It is useful to recall that the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) is carrying out its activity normally, through intensive motorized patrols, and has not mentioned in its reports any breach of the peace prevailing in the area. These facts are confirmed by the statement of the official spokesman of UNIFIL, who has criticized the excessive troop concentrations and the turmoil that Israel is unjustifiably causing.

The above-mentioned letter from the representative of Israel contains many sophistries and lies. What presents a threat to peace and security in the area are its troop concentrations on the southern border and its daily provocations in and violations of Lebanese airspace, which create an atmosphere of tension among the peaceable citizens, and the convulsive statements of its officials in their attempt to divert attention to alleged and artificial points of tension, in order to cover up the acts of slaughter and destruction being perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces in the occupied Palestinian territories.

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The situation which has arisen as a result of the ongoing Israeli troop concentrations and violations constitute, in fact, a blatant threat to peace and security in the area and a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and of Lebanese sovereignty by land, sea and air. Israel bears sole responsibility for the consequences. The United Nations is called upon to take the necessary steps to call upon Israel to withdraw its massed forces, to put an end to its ongoing threats and to restore the situation to normal.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sélim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative